

CITY OF BELLEVUE
BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION
ANNUAL RETREAT MINUTES

November 18, 2014
4:45 p.m.

Robinswood House
2430 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Laing, Commissioners Carlson, deVadoss, Hamlin, Hilhorst, Tebelius, Walter

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

COUNCIL LIASON PRESENT: John Stokes

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Miyake, City Manager; Myrna Basich, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk; Chris Salomone, Dan Stroh, Paul Inghram, Department of Planning and Community Development; Mike Brennan, Department of Development Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: Rhonda Hilyer, Agreement Dynamics, Inc.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Paul Inghram

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by Chair Laing who presided. All Commissioners were present. Chair Laing welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked staff for the work put into setting up the retreat.

2. DINNER

3. SESSION OVERVIEW

Ms. Rhonda Hilyer provided a brief overview of the agenda for the meeting.

City Manager Brad Miyake recognized the abundant work before the Planning Commission and the value of having a retreat meeting.

4. COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Stokes spoke on behalf of the mayor. He stated that the framework for why we are here is to recognize that the city has a lot of work in front of it. He is looking forward to having a positive discussion. The work of the Planning Commission will help the Council move forward with a number of items.

5. COMMUNICATION STYLES

Ms. Hilyer spoke about communication styles and the differences between different "colors."

6. ROLES OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF

Councilmember Stokes discussed the roles of the Commission and staff and noted that working effectively together was key to getting things done. The Planning Commission plays an important role in the function of the city. With lots of work to do, the city needs to be able to be nimble and responsive. Bellevue is no longer a traditional suburb with simple planning issues. It is now the major urban center of the Eastside, which calls for more intense planning efforts. People before us invested in wisely planning for the future. We owe it to them to continue to that tradition.

The Council recognizes the value of the Planning Commission. It is a group of volunteers that invest their time because they care about the city. We all want Bellevue to be a great city. Changes will happen, but through planning we can impact how.

Councilmember Stokes referred to the handouts outlining Council's expectations for the roles of the boards and commissions, the roles of staff supporting the boards and commissions, and a draft document of how we will work together.

7. DISCUSSION, SUGGESTIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS TO ENHANCE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The Commission discussed the process of communicating to Council and transmitting recommendations. Commissioner Walter expressed the need for accurate, reliable information, which will engender trust. Rhonda Hilyer recapped the key points of the discussion:

- Respectful discussions
- No surprises
- Two-way communication
- Accuracy and responsiveness
- Fair, unbiased reporting
- Check-ins and accountability

It was noted that clear expectations from Council can help guide the work of the Planning Commission.

Chair Laing noted improvements that have occurred over the last year, including shorter, more focused presentations, communication regarding the agenda, and making materials clearer about what action needs to be taken. He said he would also like to see transmittals enough in advance to ~~fully review~~ review fully, to see slide shows ahead of the presentation to Council, and greater predictability about when items will go to Council.

Commissioners deVadoss and Walter agreed to work on the list of items that describe how we will work together to create a shorter set of principles.

Councilmember Stokes noted the relationship of the city's multiple boards and commissions and how we also need to consider the working relationship between them.

8. UPCOMING WORK PROGRAM

Planning Director Dan Stroh reviewed the major planning initiatives facing the Commission. The list includes making a recommendation on the Comprehensive Plan update by March so that

Council can act prior to the statutory deadline of June 30, 2015. The planning work program also includes a number of items in the queue, including code amendments for the Eastgate/I-90 project; code amendments to implement the Downtown Livability Initiative; and station area planning. Mr. Stroh talked about the interesting work anticipated for the Grand Connection/Wilburton project that is part of the draft budget. That project may include a visioning process, plan amendments, and code amendments. The city also anticipates work on subarea plan updates and conducting a five –year review of the BelRed subarea plan.

Development Services Director Mike Brennon reviewed the work program of upcoming Land Use Code amendments in addition to those Mr. Stroh mentioned.

9. WRAP UP DISCUSSION

Ms. Hilyer noted the work accomplished at the retreat. Chair Laing thanked everyone for their participation.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Paul Inghram
Staff to the Planning Commission

3/4/2015
Date



Aaron Laing
Chair of the Planning Commission

3/4/15
Date

* Approved as corrected, February 11, 2015

